



THE PLAYERS Championship 2021

(23rd of 50 events in the 2020-21 PGA TOUR season)

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

March 11-14, 2021

Purse: \$15,000,000 (\$2,700,000/winner)

TPC Sawgrass (THE PLAYERS Stadium Course)

Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,189

FedExCup: 600 points (winner)

First-Round Notes – Friday, March 12, 2021

Weather: Thursday: Partly cloudy. High of 72. Wind E 8-12 mph. The first round was suspended due to darkness at 6:32 p.m. ET with 21 players left on the course. **Friday:** The first round resumed at 7:30 a.m. and was completed at 8:31 a.m. Mostly sunny. High of 73. Wind E 4-8 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Sergio Garcia	65 (-7)
Brian Harman	67 (-5)
Matthew Fitzpatrick	68 (-4)
Corey Connors	68 (-4)
Shane Lowry	68 (-4)

Things to Know

- 2008 PLAYERS Championship winner Sergio Garcia makes two eagles, holds two-stroke 18-hole lead
- Garcia also led THE PLAYERS by two strokes after the first round in 2008 before going on to win
- Garcia cards his tournament-record 25th round in the 60s at THE PLAYERS
- The players in first place (Garcia) and last place (Henrik Stenson) won THE PLAYERS in back-to-back years (2008, 2009)
- Brian Harman stands solo-second after a 67 that included four consecutive birdies on Nos. 9-12
- Defending champion Rory McIlroy records 79, tying the second-highest opening round score of his PGA TOUR career

First-Round Lead Notes

- 15 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win THE PLAYERS Championship (most recent: Webb Simpson/2018)
- 4 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2020-21 (most recent: Patrick Reed/Farmers Insurance Open)

Sergio Garcia (1st/-7)

Statistic	Entering the week
Age	41 (January 9, 1980)
FedExCup	23
OWGR	43
Starts at THE PLAYERS	20
Wins at THE PLAYERS	1
Top-10s at THE PLAYERS	6
Career PGA TOUR starts	375
Career PGA TOUR wins	11
Career PGA TOUR top-10s	106
PGA TOUR starts in 2020-21	10
PGA TOUR wins in 2020-21	1
PGA TOUR top-10s in 2020-21	1

- Has one win (2008) and two runner-up finishes (2007, 2015) in 20 prior starts at THE PLAYERS
- 25th round in the 60s at THE PLAYERS, most in tournament history
- Recorded eagles at Nos. 16 and 9 (both par 5s); first career round in THE PLAYERS with multiple eagles (77th round)

- Third career round on the PGA TOUR with multiple eagles and first since 2012 The Genesis Invitational (2/R4)
- Lowest opening-round score at THE PLAYERS and first 65 or better in a round at TPC Sawgrass since 2013 (65/R2)
- 13th 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR and second at THE PLAYERS (first: 2008/Won)
- 2-for-12 to date with the 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (wins: 2008 THE PLAYERS Championship, 2016 AT&T Byron Nelson)
- First past PLAYERS winner to hold the 18-hole lead/co-lead at the event since Matt Kuchar in 2018
- Has one win (Sanderson Farms Championship) and six made cuts in 10 starts during the 2020-21 season
- Entered the week No. 23 in the FedExCup standings and No. 43 in the Official World Golf Ranking

Brian Harman (2nd/-5)

- Has competed in THE PLAYERS Championship eight times with top finishes of T8 twice (2015, 2019); in two previous top-10s at THE PLAYERS, opened with 71 (2015) and 66 (2019)
- Carded four consecutive birdies from Nos. 9-12; the birdie streak was one off his career-best on TOUR of five in a row (four times; most recently: R3/2020 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP @ SHERWOOD)
- With a back-nine 31, matching his career-low nine-hole score at THE PLAYERS (R2/2012/front nine)
- Highest 18-hole position since 2019 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (2nd)
- Entered the week No. 75 in the FedExCup standings and No. 95 in the Official World Golf Ranking
- Has one top-10 in 13 starts this season (T8/The American Express)
- Two-time PGA TOUR champion (2014 John Deere Classic, 2017 Wells Fargo Championship)

Miscellaneous Notes

- **Corey Connors** (T3/-4) is the only player in the field to eagle the par-4 14th (461 yards); holed out from the fairway from 154 yards
- **Matthew Fitzpatrick** (T3/-4) posts his second sub-70 score in 13 rounds at THE PLAYERS (first: 69, R1/2016)
- **Viktor Hovland** (T42/E) was assessed a two-stroke penalty under Rule 14.7 for playing a ball from the wrong place; Hovland marked his ball on the green, moved it one putter-head length for another player, and then moved it again in the same direction rather than replacing it (score changed from 2-under 70 to even-par 72)
- FedExCup leader **Bryson DeChambeau** (T6) opens with a 3-under 69, his eighth under-par score in nine rounds at the event; DeChambeau is the only player to win multiple tournaments during the 2020-21 season (U.S. Open, Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard)
- Reigning FedExCup champion and World No. 1 **Dustin Johnson** records a 1-over 73 and stands T58; T5 in 2019 marked Johnson's first top-10 in 11 starts at the event
- Defending champion **Rory McIlroy** opens with 7-over 79, tying the second-highest opening round score of his PGA TOUR career (highest: 80/2018 U.S. Open); with a 43 on the back nine, tied the highest opening nine-hole score of his PGA TOUR career (677th round)
- **Byeong Hun An** recorded an 11 at the par-3 17th, tying the second-highest score on that hole since the event moved to TPC Sawgrass in 1982; highest: 12, Bob Tway (R3/2005)
- **Kevin Na** withdrew after the first round due to a back injury

Course Statistics

	Toughest Hole	Easiest Hole
R1:	Par-4 18 th (4.416)	Par-5 16 th (4.610)

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	36.896	36.909	73.805	-

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 (1): Tom Hoge (69)

Balls in the water at No. 17 (since 2003)

Year	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
2021	35				
2019	14	6	8	17	45
2018	24	21	6	3	54
2017	19	29	10	11	69
2016	6	9	17	4	36
2015	21	16	3	5	45

2014	12	12	1	3	28
2013	15	9	7	13	44
2012	18	11	4	6	39
2011	12	14	8	6	40
2010	7	8	5	9	29
2009	16	6	4	6	32
2008	20	18	10	16	64
2007	50	21	10	12	93
2006	19	17	12	9	57
2005	7	8	25	28	68
2004	9	10	4	7	30
2003	6	10	3	10	29
Average	17.22	13.24	8.06	9.71	47.18

Morgan Stanley Eagles for Impact Challenge

As part of its Eagles for Impact Challenge, Morgan Stanley will donate 1,500 books for every eagle made at THE PLAYERS to Book Trust—an early literacy non-profit that works to engage every child in book choice and ownership, cultivating literacy rich communities. Here’s a breakdown of eagles made and books donated:

	Eagles	Books
R1	14	21,000